

Stream Team Annual Report

A Summary of Stream Team Activities

2001



The Stream Team booth at KRCG TV-13 Kidsfest 2001 in Jefferson City was a big hit!

Twelve years ago a small group of people sat together and brainstormed on how to build a program that would provide citizen involvement and agency cooperation in river conservation. The result was the **Missouri Stream Team** program . . . and twelve years later we are 1,863 Teams strong!

Who would have guessed that an estimated 37,260 individuals throughout the state would have such an opportunity to improve and protect their local streams and rivers. Citizens of all ages, races, creeds, colors, and kinds feel a kinship when they hear the words “Stream Team”. They are a part of an effort that runs deep in their veins and deep in their communities.

During 2001, Teams statewide continued to impress us with their accomplishments. Never do these hard-working volunteers cease to amaze onlookers with their dedication, enthusiasm, and ingenuity. During 2001, Teams were involved in a total of 27 different types of activities and reported a total of nearly **100,000 hours of volunteer service**. Many of these hours were spent removing over 420 tons of trash, planting over 23,600 trees, stenciling over 1,000 storm drains, and writing over 2,275 letters!

Missouri Stream Team . . . promoting citizen awareness and involvement in river and stream conservation.



• Education • Stewardship • Advocacy •

Stream Team Progress

Although it's easy to measure many of these accomplishments, the program has an impact on people's lives that is not so easy to measure in numbers alone. A former volunteer now living in Florida recently wrote:

"Your initial training had a lasting affect on my life. I am the Program Director for the East Bay Academy of Aquaculture and have remained active in field monitoring activities with the state of Florida. I not only appreciate your part in my career development, but the continued education of the importance of aquatic ecosystems. Thanks."

Missouri Stream Team is helping to shape the hearts and minds of tomorrow's decision-makers. We are literally making waves throughout the nation!

Check out these 2001 successes:

- ◆ Two Crayfish workshops held with over 50 volunteers in attendance.
- ◆ 1st Environmental Learning Fair, a KC Expo of over 140 student projects.
- ◆ First-ever large-scale cleanup on the Missouri River -- **Missouri River Relief**.
- ◆ Quad-City Storm Drain Stenciling effort; 113 drains stenciled.
- ◆ Stream Team students as *Science Olympiad* participants.
- ◆ Integration of Adopt-A-Spring monitoring in southwest Mo.
- ◆ Collaborative meeting hosted for "The Central States Monitoring Network".

Stream Team successes were achieved in many areas throughout 2001. We hope you'll take this opportunity to celebrate with us. Perhaps you'll even be inspired to take on your own project during '02!

Water Quality Monitors . . . can't hold 'em back!

Water quality monitoring continues to be one of our most popular activities and one of the things that attracts volunteers to the program. During 2001, 362 volunteers were trained; a total of 2,494 citizens have been trained to monitor since 1993. This year, volunteers monitored 252 sites with a total of 313 monitoring trips (several sites were monitored more than once). Educational training materials were also extensively updated this year.

The demand for water quality training workshops has not slowed. This year we held a total of 27 workshops which included 13 Introductory, 8 Level I, 4 Level II, and 2 Level III workshops. Eleven volunteers who have been trained to help teach workshops through our "Train The Trainer" program continued to help teach workshops this year.

Volunteer data continues to be used by MDC and DNR. This year data was used extensively in TMDL and 303d listings, and Missouri set an example for other states in this arena.

Stream Team Academy covers more new territory

Crawdads, crawfish, freshwater lobsters, river lobsters, mudbuggers, and crawddy bottoms! Over 50 volunteers learned these colloquialisms and much more about crayfish during the two *Introduction to Crayfish* workshops held this year. Registration was so overwhelming for the first workshop, that a second workshop was held to accommodate the interest. Participants learned about the life history, ecology, and identification of crayfish. They had a chance to identify specimens they brought to the workshop and inspect over 20 species from throughout the state.

Stream Team Leadership

Stream Teams haul it away!

During 2001, Stream Teams took on five huge litter cleanup projects. These included the *Blue River Rescue XI*, *34th Annual Operation Clean Stream*, *Missouri River Rescue*, *Elk River Cooperative Cleanup*, and *Operation Three Streams*. These events involved over 1,000 volunteers who can hang their hat on the fact that they collectively removed 284 tons of trash from these streams! The trash from these events alone is enough to fill a football field 1½ feet deep! What's more, much of what was removed was recycled during each effort.

Stewardship opportunities abound

Two new activity options are now available to Teams. The Adopt-An-Access activity was kicked off in the fall and currently 11 accesses have been adopted. This activity requires the cooperation and participation of MDC area managers throughout the state. The relationships developing between area managers and volunteers are sure to improve our public access areas. Special thanks to all who have already participated.

Mentoring is the second activity introduced during '01. Seasoned members can become advisors, willing to share their knowledge, and supporters, who give emotional and moral encouragement when needed. Because of the size of the program it has become impossible for coordinators to mentor new members. By connecting experienced volunteers with inexperienced ones, we can help new members get started and help them build relationships with other Teams in their watershed.

Dedication and accomplishments are awarded

It's an honor every year to present the annual Stream Team awards to deserving Teams. This year's winners included:

Adult Categories:

Awareness: Parker Family Stream Team, Bryan Parker, Stream Team 695

Leadership: Arnold Stream Team, Mike DeRuntz, Stream Team 211

Stewardship: Bourbeuse River Operation Clean Stream, Dolores Swoboda, Stream Team 3

Youth Categories:

Awareness: Gallatin R-V Advanced Biology Class, Dennis Steigerwalt, Stream Team 697

Leadership: Kirksville Alternative School, Jackie Lawrence & Madelon Rounds, Stream Team 1373

Stewardship: Wydown Middle School, Janet Crews, Stream Team 1369

Perhaps an even greater honor is when Stream Teams and their accomplishments are recognized by other groups. This year several Teams received outside awards.

- ◆ The Missouri Chapter of the American Fisheries Society recognized Bill Miller (Team 1150) and Mike DeRuntz (Team 211) with a formal "Letter of Recognition". Good work guys!
- ◆ The White River Basin honored the following Teams during their Water Quality Forum for their accomplishments: Nixa Middle School (Team 282), Bull Mills Group (Team 1156), and Bryant Watershed Project (Team 1839). We also salute your accomplishments!
- ◆ Amber Spohn from Reeds Spring High School (Team 432) won the Conservation Federation of Missouri's Youth Conservationist of the Year award! Congratulations!

Stream Team Future

Stash Your Trash

The Stream Team program continues to administer the *Stash Your Trash* program which provides trash bags to float outfitters. This year over 260,000 bags were provided throughout the state. This goes a long way to keeping streams litter-free as each canoe or raft that is rented by these outfitters receives a bag. Trash filling 260,000 bags would add up to over 850 tons!

Other states continue to follow our lead

During the last several years, our coordinators have helped other surrounding states begin Stream Team efforts of their own. This year was no exception. We continued to work with Arkansas and Iowa and gave assistance to Kansas, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Minnesota, and California. Having other states ask our advice is quite a compliment. It is also reassuring that we can help them move forward in their efforts because of our experiences.

The more you do, the better your odds!

Stream Team Incentive Drawings provided exciting new reward opportunities for Teams this year. Among the items awarded were two canoes, camping/floating trips, fishing trips, jewelry, coolers, and more. Every volunteer that participates in an activity is eligible, and the more you participate, the more often your name goes into the "hat"! Winners are drawn quarterly. Thanks to the many dedicated Team members, employees, and local businesses who have donated prize items this year!

On the horizon . . .

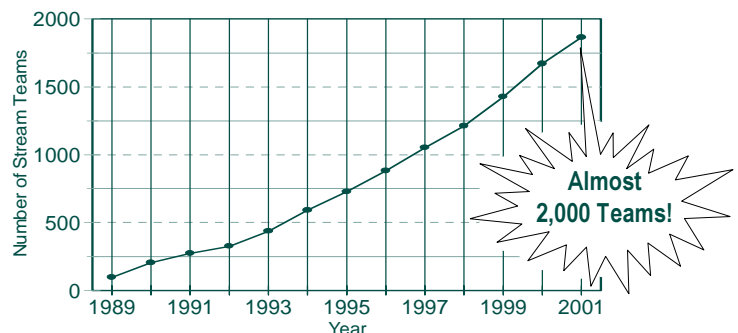
During 2002, we don't plan to slow down! *Stream Team Advocacy*, our first Academy workshop held via "Distance Learning", will be held in March. The workshop will be aired at four sites simultaneously with two-way communication capabilities. This gives us the opportunity to teach four times as many volunteers in the same time span! We will be using the Missouri Army National Guard's facilities, and they have generously waived the charges for our first session.

Another *Understanding Streams* workshop will also be held in April. This popular workshop, which teaches about streams, how they are interconnected with their watersheds, and how they change over time, is sure to be another success. Stream Unit technical field staff and Stream Team Coordinators will again work together to pull off this 2½ day event.

During 2002, we are destined to hit 2,000 Teams! This will provide us a chance to celebrate and encourage a stewardship focus for the month of June.

The attached pages reveal more 2001 volunteer accomplishments. Total numbers in this report are based on activities reported, although we know that actual contributions are much greater. Phone surveys and comparisons between known data and reported data indicate that only a fraction of Stream Team activities are reported.

Stream Team Growth: 1989 - 2001



Stream Team Activity Totals 2001

These totals are based on activity reports submitted by Stream Teams.

Activity	Participants	Time Spent (volunteer hours)	Number of Units	Value (x \$16.05*)
Advocacy	28	29	29 hours	\$465.45
Agency Events	31	114	7 events	\$1,829.70
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	171	353	85 articles	\$5,665.65
Association Activities	277	3,207	3,207 hours	\$51,472.35
Award Winners	10	17	8 awards	\$272.85
Displays at Fairs, etc.	1,506	3,286	41 events	\$52,740.30
Educational Projects	2,370	7,932	68 events	\$127,308.60
Forestkeepers (forest monitoring)	263	4,952	42 trips	\$79,479.60
Greenway Development Projects	272	770.5	32 projects	\$12,366.53
Grants (funded projects)	22	802	3 projects	\$12,872.10
Inventory	470	1,227	53 inventories	\$19,693.35
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	141	400	2,276 letters	\$6,420.00
Litter Pickups	9,490	35,150	421 tons of trash	\$564,157.50
Media Contacts	120	156	181 interviews	\$2,503.80
Mentoring	1	2	1 volunteer	\$32.10
Meetings (held or attended)	2,833	5,200	2,891 attendees	\$83,460.00
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	1,575	2,073.5	148 projects	\$33,279.68
Planted Trees	710	5,061	23,669 trees	\$81,229.05
Presentations to Other Groups	195	381	53 presentations	\$6,115.05
Recruited New Members	326	1,922	372 people	\$30,848.10
River Observations (observations related to possible pollution events)	20	141	141 hour	\$2,263.05
Storm Drain Stenciling	75	395	1,029 drains	\$6,339.75
Streambank Stabilization Projects	3	48	1 event	\$770.40
Watershed Mapping	28	42	2 trips	\$674.10
Workshops (attended or conducted)	889	5,715	930 attendees	\$91,725.75
Water Quality Monitoring	7,030	20,191	1,420 trips	\$324,065.55
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	11	10	4 trips	\$160.50
Totals	28,867	99,567	————	\$1,598,050.30

* \$16.05/hour is the current national non-agricultural wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time. This figure is provided annually courtesy of the U.S. Department of Labor.

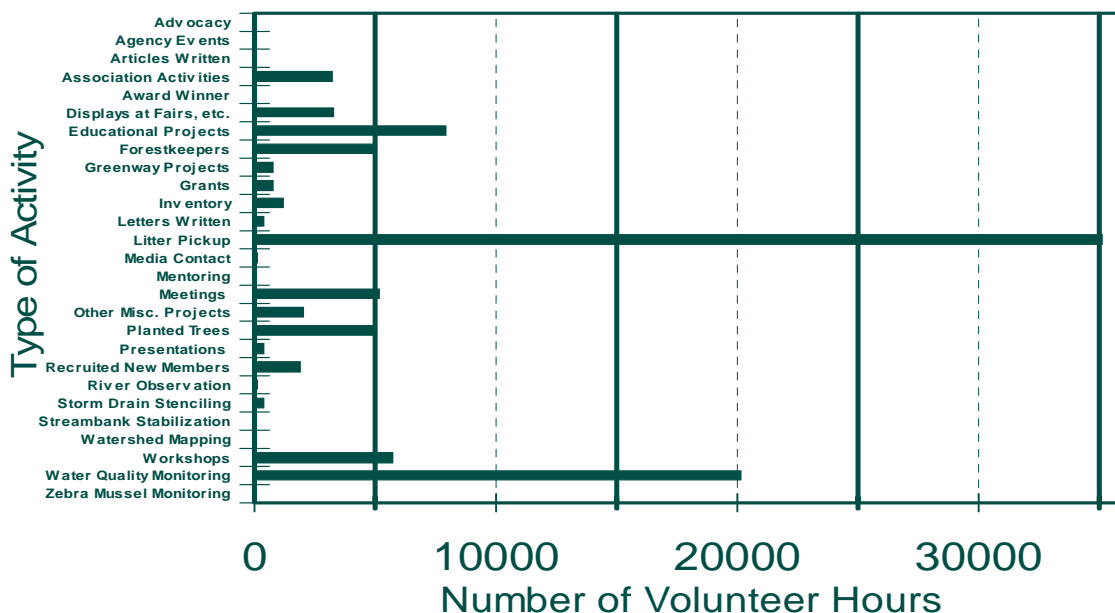
** Includes projects like web site development, newsletters, scout programs, fund raising projects, etc.

**Almost
\$1.6 million!!!**

Stream Team Activity Charts 2001

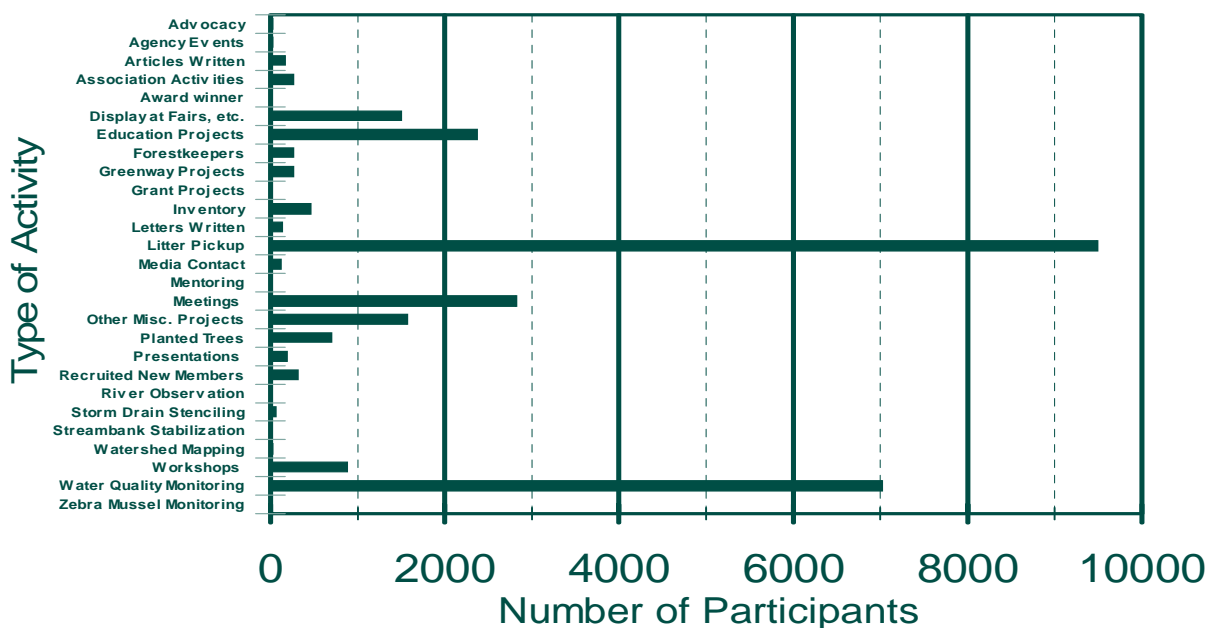
2001 Stream Team Activities

Volunteer Hours



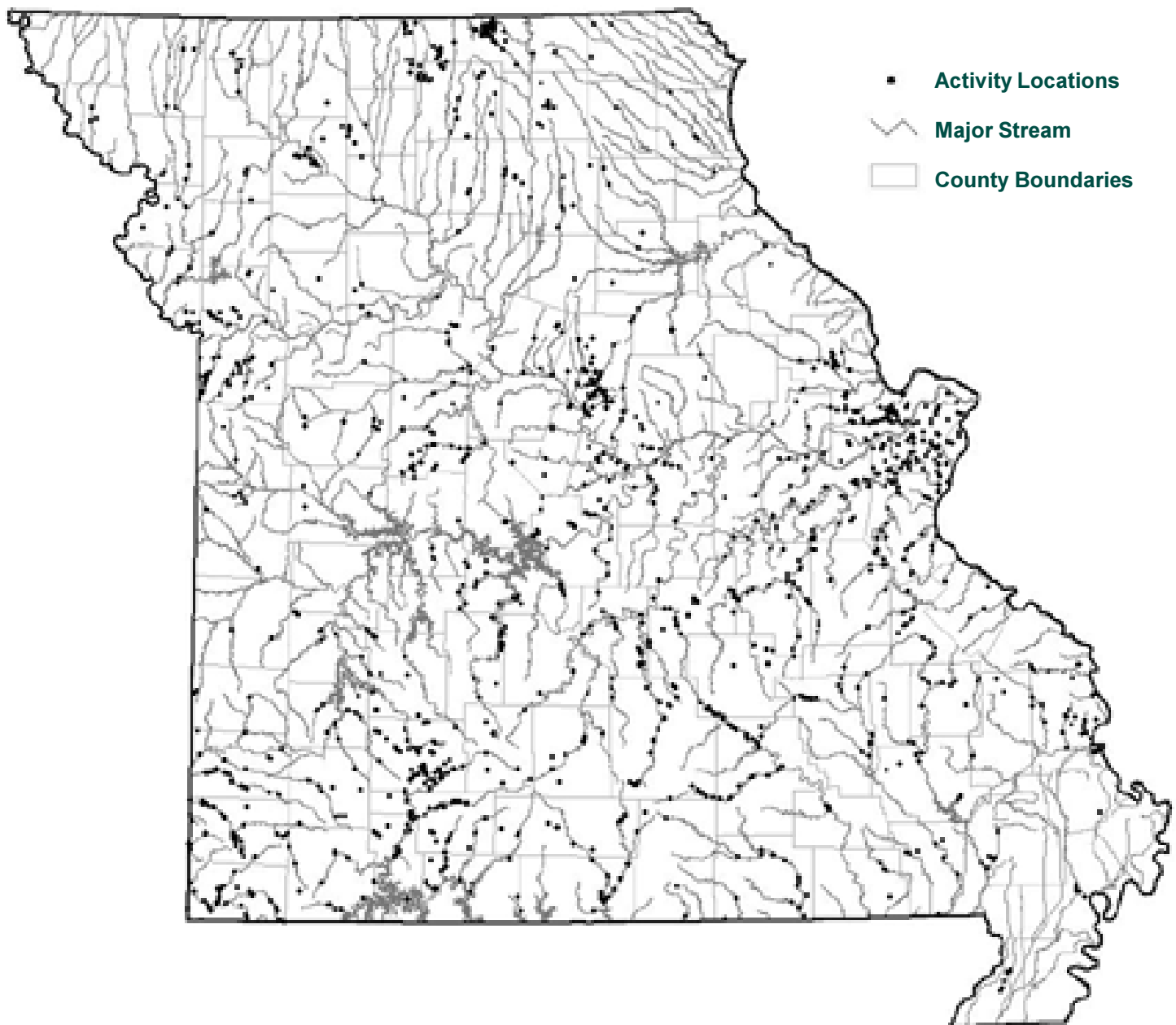
2001 Stream Team Activities

Participants



Stream Team Activity Sites 2001

This map indicates sites where reported activities have occurred in 2001. Some activity sites are not mapped because we do not have detailed site information, and many activities are not site-specific.



Stream Team Reflections 2001



Teacher Elizabeth Petersen, Team 76, teaches Ladue Middle School students (above) about turbidity. They frequently monitor water quality and study stream chemistry at their site on Deer Creek at Litzsinger Road Ecology Center in St. Louis County.

Check out this group of teens! No couch potatoes here! Above are only a few of the hundreds who got down and dirty during the 34th Annual Operation Clean Stream on August 25, 2001. Tons of trash were collected from the Meramec, Bourbeuse, Big, Huzzah, and Courtois.

Larry Cain, Chris Cain, Rep. Harold Selby, and Sen. Steven Stoll cleaned an entire boatload of tires from Big River areas near Fox Run Golf Course in Jefferson County last June. See their collection at right. Good job, Team 1008!



• Dedication • Pride • Fun •

Members of Stream Team 211 from Arnold, Missouri, helped man phones for Channel 5's "Earth Day Information Program." From left to right, back row: Mary DeRuntz, Howard Luh, and Mary Ellen Romas. Front row: Jerry Miller, Nancy Nelson, Bernie Arnold, and Mike DeRuntz. Thanks, Stream Team 211!



MDC Commissioner Howard Wood (above left) received his Stream Team 10-year certificate from Fisheries Division Chief Norm Stucky. Howard was a Stream Team even before he was a Commissioner. Congrats!!!



Vannessa Frazier's Team 1617 from New Madrid collected many bags full of litter! Her little Team members recently said, "Vannessa doesn't work us too hard; we get to take a break and enjoy what we just did. Look around us! Is it clean or what?"

Judy Guyn (Team 41) created "Moovin' On Down the Mighty MO" to increase awareness of rivers for the traveling CowParade® exhibition held in K.C. last summer. Cool!

Reflections

2001



Last July 5, Homespun Stream Team 1566 conducted a water quality sampling trip at Jackson City Park in Cape Girardeau County. Becky Tompkins and Amanda Troyer (above) tested for Nitrates as part of their home schooling curriculum.

Shown below, thirty hard-working folks from Team 3 picked up a truck and trailer load of trash from the Bourbeuse and its accesses last March during their annual spring cleanup. Thanks, Team 3, for twelve years of dedication to Stream Team!



The City of Wentzville (Team 1062 at the Water Reclamation Center) planted 700 willow stakes along McCoy Creek last January. On other occasions they placed rock rip-rap on banks, planted food plots and 200 trees, and designated no-plow zones near the stream. Wow!



Students (above) from Wydown LEAP School sampled Wolf Run Lake in Franklin County for their biotic data collection this past fall. Janet Crews has led Team 1369 for three years!

• Spirit • Education • Success •



You've probably heard that old phrase "hands across the water" . . . well . . . it's literally true if you're talking about Missouri and Arkansas Stream Teams! Last September they joined hands to clean Elk River and Indian Creek near Noel, MO. Afterwards, they shared BBQ, Stream Team displays (below), and new friendships rooted and watered by the streams of both states.

Missouri River Relief . . . what a huge success!!! Last October 6, over 500 volunteers filled Chad Pregracke's barge (pictured above) with river trash collected from Rocheport to Hartsburg. And nearly 85% of that refuse was sorted by willing hands and recycled!



On May 20, 2001, Team 401 (below) held their 9th annual spring cleanup on Joachim Creek in Jefferson County. Missouri streams continue to benefit from "old faithfuls" like Glenn Marshall, his family, friends, and neighbors!



Stream Teams gathered to exchange success stories, ideas, and plans at the Annual Meramec Watershed Picnic last July. Team kids (above) had fun, too! Brings back memories, doesn't it?

Thanks, Stream Teams, for sharing your many wonderful photos and achievements with us!
Keep those pictures coming!

Stream Team Staff

“Thank you, Stream Teams,
for another year of hard work
and dedication.

Don't forget, we are here to help!”

2001



From left to right, front row: Chris Riggert (MDC), Bob Schulz (MDC), Sherry Fischer (MDC)
Middle Row: Carol Krieger (MDC), Angie Williams (DNR), Donna Menown (DNR), Mary Utrecht (MDC)
Back Row: Priscilla Stotts (DNR), Paul Calvert (MDC), Mark Van Patten (MDC)
Not pictured: Tim Rielly (MDC), Niki Aberle (CFM), Sharon Clifford (DNR)